

ATTACHMENT A

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS, SERIAL NO. 10/071,930

This is a complete listing of all claims that will be pending in this application, once this amendment is entered into the record. All previous claims (claims 1-12) are hereby cancelled.

1 - 12. (Canceled)

13. (New) A flexible surgical implant for repairing damaged hyaline cartilage in a mammalian joint, comprising:

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a. an anchoring portion having an anchoring surface that will press against a prepared bone surface following implantation, wherein the anchoring portion is provided with or designed to interact with a plurality of anchoring protrusions that will extend into accommodating bone following implantation, in a manner that will allow the implant to resist shear stresses of a type and magnitude that will be encountered in the mammalian joint being repaired;

b. a bearing surface portion, comprising a hydrogel material having a lubricious articulating surface; and,

c. at least one interface component, positioned between said anchoring surface and said lubricious articulating surface, and providing a shear-resistant interface between said hydrogel material and said anchoring portion.

14. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 13, wherein the anchoring portion comprises a main body having a plurality of anchoring pins coupled to the main body by flexible means which allow the anchoring pins to be folded against the main body during insertion into the joint being repaired.

15. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 13, wherein the anchoring portion comprises:

(i) an anchoring layer component which is designed to be pressed against a hard bone surface, and which is provided with a plurality of holes for accommodating anchoring pins; and,

(ii) a plurality of anchoring pins which can be driven through the anchoring pin holes and into a hard bone surface.

16. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 13, wherein the anchoring portion and the bearing surface portion are separate components prior to implantation.

17. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 13, wherein the anchoring portion comprises a rim which is sufficiently flexible to allow the rim to be squeezed into an elongated form having a width of about 75% or less of its normal relaxed width.

18. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 13, wherein the anchoring portion comprises a layer which is sufficiently flexible to allow it to be rolled into a cylindrical arc wherein the opposed edges of the arc have an angular displacement of 110 degrees or less.

19. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 13, wherein the anchoring portion and the bearing surface portion are fabricated together as a single implant which is sufficiently flexible to allow it to be rolled into a cylindrical arc wherein the opposed edges of the arc have an angular displacement of 110 degrees or less.

20. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 13, wherein said interface component comprises a non-planar layer having a plurality of facets oriented in different directions, and having a plurality of holes, oriented in different directions, passing through said facets.

21. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 13, wherein said anchoring portion comprises a porous material that promotes osseous tissue ingrowth.

22. (New) The surgical implant of Claim 13 wherein the bearing surface portion comprises a synthetic hydrogel.

23. (New) The surgical implant of Claim 13 wherein the bearing surface portion comprises a synthetic porous hydrophilic polymer.

24. (New) A flexible surgical implant for repairing damaged hyaline cartilage in a mammalian joint, comprising:

a. an anchoring portion having an anchoring surface that will press against a prepared bone surface following implantation, wherein the anchoring portion is provided with or designed to interact with a plurality of anchoring protrusions that will extend into accommodating bone following implantation, in a manner that will allow the implant to resist shear stresses of a type and magnitude that will be encountered in the mammalian joint being repaired; and,

b. a bearing surface portion, comprising a hydrogel material having a lubricious articulating surface.

25. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 24, wherein the anchoring portion comprises a main body having a plurality of anchoring pins coupled to the main body by flexible means which allow the anchoring pins to be folded against the main body during insertion into the joint being repaired.

26. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 24, wherein the anchoring portion comprises:

(i) an anchoring layer component which is designed to be pressed against a hard bone surface, and which is provided with a plurality of holes for accommodating anchoring pins; and,

(ii) a plurality of anchoring pins which can be driven through the anchoring pin holes and into a hard bone surface.

27. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 24, wherein the anchoring portion and the bearing surface portion are separate components prior to implantation.

28. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 24, wherein the anchoring portion comprises a rim which is sufficiently

flexible to allow the rim to be squeezed into an elongated form having a width of about 75% or less of its normal relaxed width.

29. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 24, wherein the anchoring portion comprises a layer which is sufficiently flexible to allow it to be rolled into a cylindrical arc wherein the opposed edges of the arc have an angular displacement of 110 degrees or less.

30. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 24, wherein the anchoring portion and the bearing surface portion are fabricated together as a single implant which is sufficiently flexible to allow it to be rolled into a cylindrical arc wherein the opposed edges of the arc have an angular displacement of 110 degrees or less.

91 31. (New) The flexible surgical implant of Claim 24, also comprising an non-planar interface layer having a plurality of facets oriented in different directions, and having a plurality of holes, oriented in different directions, passing through said facets.

